

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

**FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS
THE BERKSHIRE GAS COMPANY
D.T.E. 06-27**

Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. 1.06(6)(c), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") submits to The Berkshire Gas Company ("Berkshire" or "Company") the following Information Requests.

Instructions

The following instructions apply to this set of Information Requests and all subsequent Information Requests issued by the Department to the Company in this proceeding.

1. Each request should be answered in writing on a separate three-hole punched page with a recitation of the request, a reference to the request number, the docket number of the case and the name of the person responsible for the answer.
2. Please do not wait for all answers to be completed before supplying answers. Provide the answers as they are completed.
3. These requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require further supplemental responses if the Company or its witness receives or generates additional information within the scope of these requests between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.
4. The term "provide complete and detailed documentation" means:

Provide all data, assumptions and calculations relied upon. Provide the source of and basis for all data and assumptions employed. Include all studies, reports and planning documents from which data, estimates or assumptions were drawn and support for how the data or assumptions were used in developing the projections or estimates. Provide and explain all supporting workpapers.
5. The term "document" is used in its broadest sense and includes, without limitation, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, microfilm, microfiche, audio recordings, video recordings, computer printouts, correspondence, handwritten notes, records or reports, bills, checks, articles from journals, electronic mail or other sources and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and all copies of such documents that bear notations or other markings that differentiate such copies from the original.

6. If the Company finds that any one of these requests is ambiguous, please notify the Hearing Officer so that the request may be clarified prior to the preparation of a written response.
7. If a question refers to an Information Request of another party, please provide that response and answer with information that supplements the previous response.
8. Please serve a copy of the responses as follows: (a) an original and four (4) copies to Mary Cottrell, Secretary of the Department; also submit one (1) copy of all written documents in electronic format using one of the following methods: (1) by e-mail attachment to dte.efiling@state.ma.us and to John.J.Keene@state.ma.us and to Rebecca.Hanson@state.ma.us; or (2) on a 3.5" disk, IBM-compatible format. The text of the e-mail or the disk label must specify: (1) the docket number of the proceeding (D.T.E. 06-27), (2) name of the person or company submitting the filing, and (3) a brief descriptive title of the document (e.g., Response to Information Requests). The electronic filing should also include the name, title and phone number of a person to contact in the event of questions about the filing. Text responses should be created in either Corel WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, or as an Adobe-compatible PDF file. Data or spreadsheet responses should be compatible with Microsoft Excel. Documents submitted in electronic format will be posted on the Department's Website, <http://www.mass.gov/dte>.

INFORMATION REQUESTS

- DTE 1- 1 Please explain in detail how the Company's current proposal is consistent with its most recently approved Forecast and Supply Plan. Refer the Department to the relevant pages of the Company's filing and/or relevant pages of the Department's decision. In your response, please address whether this proposal is consistent with the Forecast and Supply Plan filed in D.T.E. 05-7, particularly with respect to the need for peaking capacity.
- DTE 1- 2 Refer to page one of the Petition. Please explain why the Company agreed to the Sales Agreement for a term of seven years.
- DTE 1- 3 Refer to section six on page three of the Petition where the Company indicates the Coral volumes will be delivered out of "Niagara." Please clarify what "Niagara" refers to.

- DTE 1- 4 Refer to section seven on page two of the Petition where the Company indicates it was unable to obtain pipeline capacity from the Iroquois and Tennessee Gas pipelines. When was that determination made? Please explain in detail the circumstances leading to the realization that capacity was not available. Indicate whether there were any positive responses to the Request for Proposals (“RFP”) issued to twelve suppliers, and, if so, provide copies.
- DTE 1- 5 Refer to section eight on page three of the Petition. Please explain how and when was the issue of the right of first refusal (“ROFR”) first discussed with Coral? Was the issue of the ROFR raised by Berkshire or Coral? Provide all relevant documents and workpapers with your response.
- DTE 1- 6 Refer to page two of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony. She indicates that a cogeneration plant in Pittsfield will not be available for the foreseeable future. Please detail the Company’s basis for stating it will not be available for the “foreseeable future.” Provide with your response all evaluations, studies, reports, correspondence, emails, notes, memorandum and work papers related to the plant not being available and the anticipated time frame that it will not be available.
- DTE 1- 7 Refer to page three of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony referring to the delivery point of the Company’s Pittsfield citygate. Did the Company consider any alternatives to this delivery point? Please explain why or why not.
- DTE 1- 8 Refer to page four of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony where she discusses the discount to be paid to Berkshire if Coral is not entitled to obtain the ROFR. Please explain how was this amount determined?
- DTE 1- 9 Refer to page four of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony where the pricing for the Coral Agreement is discussed. Please explain how the price, the NYMEX Last Day plus an additional rate per MMBtu, was determined?
- DTE 1- 10 Refer to page five of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony. Please explain the mechanics of the triggering of a NYMEX price in more detail. What does “subject to credit capacity” mean specifically?
- DTE 1- 11 Refer to page five of Jennifer Boucher’s testimony. Please elaborate on what the Company means by “. . . the Company expects to enhance stability attributes of its resource portfolio” and how these attributes will be enhanced.

- DTE 1-12 Refer to page six of Jennifer Boucher's testimony where she discusses the Company's right to purchase a portion of the gas supply from the Amended Fuel Purchase Agreement ("AFPA") resource. Please detail the specific rights that Berkshire had under the AFPA agreement including the applicable time periods of those rights. Provide all documents supporting Berkshire's rights. Clarify whether the Company's rights were to gas supply, transportation, delivered quantities or a combination. Explain how the Company exercised those rights and the notices required to be given to AFPA to call upon the resource.
- DTE 1-13 Please provide all details, including the history of usage, of the Distrigas services that were used in the winter of 2004-05 to provide reliable service when the AFPA was not available. Address any concern(s) that the Company may have had about entering into the DOMAC contract as a replacement for the AFPA volumes.
- DTE 1-14 Refer to page seven of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Provide all information on the Company's usage of propane in the winter of 2004-05, including the days and quantities of usage. Indicate how many days, if any, were not peak days that placed operational restrictions on the use of propane. When was it that the Company determined that "it should not rely exclusively on propane to completely replace the AFPA volumes." Is there a quantity of the AFPA volumes that the Company has determined can be relied on to replace the AFPA volumes?
- DTE 1-15 Refer to page eight of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Ms. Boucher indicates that Berkshire determined that Dracut supply is "never, as a practical matter, firm and would likely be interrupted when the Company would most likely require the supply." Please explain how the Company made this determination. Provide with your response, all documents, studies and data used by the Company to make this determination. Please address whether the Company considered issuing an RFP to solicit supply through Dracut. Provide all relevant work papers and data the Company used to determine whether or not Dracut supply should be considered.
- DTE 1-16 Refer to page eight of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Please explain how the Company determined that capacity was available on the Iroquois system but not available on the Tennessee system for the 2004-05 winter. Provide all relevant documents.

- DTE 1-17 Refer to page 10 of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Please discuss the advantages and disadvantages of both a 90-day and 151-day baseload service for meeting Berkshire's needs for peaking service. Explain Berkshire's reasons for rejecting such a service.
- DTE 1-18 Refer to page eleven of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Please explain how the Company determined that the proposal that Berkshire received for 20-days of use would not provide adequate reliability.
- DTE 1-19 Refer to page eleven of Jennifer Boucher's testimony and Attachment JMB-10. Please provide copies of all correspondence exchanged between the Company and the recipients of the RFP issued on July 13, 2005 that relates to the RFP, whether by fax, letter, email or other means.
- As part your response, indicate whether any entity to whom the RFP was sent presented the Company with any request for clarification of any term of the RFP or any other inquiry or comment with regard to the RFP. If so, please provide a copy of the request, inquiry, or comment and the Company's reply. Please also indicate whether the Company shared its reply to such requests, inquiries, or comments with all RFP recipients.
- DTE 1-20 Are the agreements with Coral subject to approval from the Department? Please reference the applicable provision(s) in the agreements.
- DTE 1-21 Refer to page 12-13 of Jennifer Boucher's testimony. Please explain any differences between how the costs of this peaking service would be assessed to marketers and how the costs were assigned for the AFPA volumes.

Date: April 13, 2006